

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of verifying ~~charges taxes~~ on a customer telecommunications bill, comprising the steps of:

downloading, from a mainframe computer, to a local server billing data associated with a customer account, the billing data ~~being associated with~~ having been used to generate a hold bill that is scheduled to be sent as a customer bill to a customer, the hold bill including ~~calculated~~ hold bill tax charges;

populating a database with a portion of the billing data;

performing pre-calculation functions on another portion of the billing data and further populating the database with results of the pre-calculation functions;

displaying predetermined categories of information stored in the database the categories of information encompassing at least a subset of the results of the pre-calculation functions;

independently calculating the to produce calculated tax results taxes for each of several charges in the billing data utilizing the billing data populated in the database and storing the calculated tax results in the database; and

comparing the calculated tax results with the ~~calculated~~ hold bill tax charges on the customer hold bill to verify the accuracy of the hold bill tax charges; and

when the calculated tax results match the hold bill tax charges, printing the hold bill as a customer bill and sending the customer bill to the customer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the customer bill is generated by a corporate entity different from the corporate entity having control of the database.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pre-calculation functions include summing toll telephone charges.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined categories describe elements of individual charges.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying step is performed on a computer.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the computer is in communication with an electronic data network.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising loading the database with tax rate information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising electronically saving the tax results.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising utilizing the calculated tax results for resolving questions.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the local server and database are integrated in a single machine.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of verifying hold bill taxes on account charges on a customer hold bill, the hold bill being a bill that is scheduled to be sent as a customer bill to a customer, the method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a tax rate information database that is in communication with a data network;

maintaining a database that includes account charges;

automatically applying the tax rate information to the account charges and storing a calculated tax result;

displaying the calculated tax result on a computer that is in communication with the data network; and

comparing the calculated tax result with the hold bill taxes appearing on the hold bill; and
when the calculated tax result matches the hold bill taxes, authorizing the printing and
sending of the hold bill as a customer bill.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of maintaining the database includes downloading account information from a mainframe computer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the account information includes prebill and demand print data.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising supplying the tax rate information to the mainframe computer.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising scanning the hold bill and storing an image thereof.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising applying optical character recognition software to the image and storing a file representative of characters obtained.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising electronically comparing at least a portion of the file with the calculated tax result.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the database is in communication with a local server.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising using the calculated tax result to identify errors on the hold bill.
20. (Currently Amended) A method of independently verifying the accuracy of tax charges on a hold bill generated for a customer account, the bill being one that is scheduled to be sent as a customer bill to a customer upon verification of the accuracy of the tax charges indicated on the hold bill, the method comprising the steps of:
- downloading data, including customer charges, that is the basis for hold bill generation, to a local server;
- on the local server, automatically determining which customer charges are subject to taxation;
- on the local server, automatically calculating the tax for the customer charges subject to taxation and storing calculated tax results;
- displaying the calculated tax results on a user computer; and
- on the local server, comparing the calculated tax results to the tax charges on the hold bill,
- wherein the hold bill generated for a customer account is generated on a mainframe computer and the local server is operable separately from the mainframe computer, and
- wherein when the calculated tax results match the tax charges on the hold bill, sending the hold bill as a customer bill to the customer.